

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 46-52 are pending in this application. Claims 35, 36, and 38-45 are canceled by the present response and new claims 46-52 are added by the present response. Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0114195 to Bernasconi. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bernasconi as applied to claim 35, and further in view of the Publication “Automeeting Peripherals Launches ActiveStaffer”, 1999 (herein “the ActiveStaffer Publication”). Claims 38-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,578,005 to Lesaint et al. (herein “Lesaint”).

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response as new claims 46-52 are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The claims as currently written clarify certain claim features. Particularly, new independent claim 46 recites first and second information acquiring units. The first acquiring unit displays a number-of-person setting screen for setting a number of persons needed for each of predetermined time slots on each day on a display unit. The second information acquiring unit displays an event setting screen for setting a date of an event, and a number of persons needed for each of predetermined time slots on the date of the event, which is different from an ordinarily needed number of persons.

Independent claim 46 also recites generating a temporary shift table in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set and distributing the temporary shift table to mobile telephones of different employees by e-mail. The employees, at their mobile telephones, can respond by either approving the temporary shift table or requesting a re-organizing of the temporary shift table.

Independent claims 51 and 52 also recite similar features as in independent claim 46 noted above.

With the claims as currently written, a work management system can efficiently set work schedules both for normal work operation and for special events, and can generate a temporary shift table indicating the employee set work schedule for a special event. The employees can then either approve that temporary shift table or request a change thereto. With such an operation a work management system can efficiently set work schedules both from the employer and employee point of view.

The features noted above as recited in the new claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Bernasconi is directed to an internet-based system that can allow a school district to appropriately dispatch substitute/temporary personnel to an appropriate school worksite. In contrast to Bernasconi, the claims as currently written allow both a normal work schedule and a temporary work schedule to be set by a work management system. The claims also recite e-mailing the temporary work schedule to different mobile telephones, and the users at the received mobile telephones being able to either approve or request a re-organizing of the transmitted temporary shift table. Bernasconi is not directed to a similar device as claimed.

The ActiveStaffer Publication discloses creating scheduled plans with respect to staffing issues. However, the ActiveStaffer Publication does not disclose any features beyond Bernasconi, and in that respect the ActiveStaffer Publication does not cure any of the above-discussed deficiencies in Bernasconi. The ActiveStaffer Publication is not directed to the same type of claimed system that can set both normal and temporary work schedules, provide the temporary work schedule to mobile telephones of different employees, and that allows the employees to respond on their mobile telephones with either an approval or a

request for re-organizing of a temporary shift table. Thus, the ActiveStaffer Publication does not cure any of the above-discussed deficiencies of Bernasconi.

Moreover, no teachings in Lesaint are believed to meet all the claimed limitations.

Lesaint is directed to a resource allocations system in which schedule changes can be incorporated in real time. However, Lesaint is also not directed to the claimed system that can set both normal and temporary work schedules, which e-mails the temporary work schedule to the employees at mobile telephones of those employees, and that allows the employees at their mobile telephone to either approve the temporary shift table or request a re-organizing of the temporary shift table. Thus, Lesaint is also not directed to the features as now recited in the claims.

Applicants also note the basis for the previous rejection took Official Notice of certain positions, which applicants traverse. Applicants request prior art be cited for the positions for which Official Notice was taken, and that it be explained on the record how such features are applicable to the teachings in the applied art, namely that it be indicated how the art could be modified in view of such positions.

In view of these foregoing comments, however, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,


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